



September 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about oil extraction, such as drilling, and Cambo oil field.

I can assure you tackling climate change is an important priority for the Government and recently we published the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. This lays the blueprint for how we can achieve net zero and the further publication of the Energy White Paper made clear the Government's commitment to clean energy sources.

As we transition to clean energy, there will still be some role for fossil fuels in the medium term. We understand this is not sustainable in the long term and steps have been taken to speed up the UK's transition.

In the Energy White Paper, it set out the Government's future plans for the oil and gas sector including transforming the UK Continental Shelf to be a net zero basin by 2050. In addition, the North Sea Transition Deal creates new business opportunities, jobs and skills as the oil and gas sector works to transition to clean, green energy.

The Government will provide opportunities for oil and gas companies to repurpose their operations away from unabated fossil fuels to abatement technologies such as Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS), or clean energy production such as hydrogen.

The Deal goes further and includes interim targets, such as a 10% reduction in emissions by 2025, 25% by 2027 and 50% by 2030. It also supports up to 40,000 UK supply chain jobs in decarbonising UK Continental Shelf production and the CCUS and hydrogen sectors.

Ultimately, the Government is clear that the licensing of domestic oil and gas exploration and production must continue to be compatible with our climate change ambitions. While the Government has supported the sector through the pandemic, which has protected jobs and livelihoods, there can be no 'return to normal' due to the context of the UK's net zero recovery. Oil and gas companies are already responding positively to this challenge - for example, Shell is investing in CCUS technology.

I appreciate you raising your concerns about the Cambo oil field, and I know that my Ministerial colleagues are aware of these issues. I understand that the original licensing consent for the Cambo oil field dates back to 2001 and the project is going through normal regulatory processes. The decision on whether to grant consent to Cambo oil field will be taken by the Oil and Gas Authority, who are ultimately responsible.



Chris Heaton-Harris
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Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY